

REMARKS

Claim 9 is allowed.

Claim 8 has been rejected as anticipated by Kaneko et al. under 35 USC § 102(e). Reconsideration of this rejection is requested in light of the foregoing amendment.

The Examiner correctly notes that Kaneko et al. describes a system in which a longer duration period of fuel injection occurs when the catalytic converter temperature decreases and is shorter as the temperature rises. This is different from the invention of Claim 8 as illustrated in Figs. 19, 20A and 20B, where the interval between auxiliary fuel injection increases at a catalyst temperature lower than a predetermined value. In contrast to Kaneko et al.'s system where complicate torque compensations are needed by way of ignition timing control with injecting duration correcting factors, the invention of Claim 8 avoids the need for such compensations by controlling the interval between auxiliary fuel injection. No such concept is suggested in the Kaneko et al. documents.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is requested.

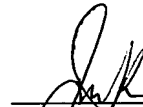
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381AS/49702DV).

Respectfully submitted,

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